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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ITERATIVE DECODING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/219,858, filed August 15, 2002, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ITERATIVE DECODING" which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,518,892, filed July 6, 2001, entitled "STOPPING CRITERIA FOR ITERATIVE DECODING" which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/246,425, filed November 6, 2000, entitled "STOPPING CRITERIA FOR DECODING OF TURBO CODE".

which is now a U.S patent 6,686,853

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a decoding method and apparatus. More specifically, the invention relates to an interative decoding method and apparatus.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A significant amount of interest has recently been paid to channel coding. For example a recent authoritative text states: "Channel coding refers to the class of signal transformations designed to improve communications performance by enabling the transmitted signals to better withstand the effects of various channel impairments, such as noise, interference, and fading. These signal-processing techniques can be thought of as vehicles for accomplishing desirable system trade-offs (e.g., error-performance versus bandwidth, power versus bandwidth). Why do you suppose channel coding has become such a popular way to bring about these beneficial effects? The use of large-scale integrated circuits (LSI) and high-speed digital signal processing (DSP) techniques have made it possible to provide as much as 10 dB performance improvement through these methods, at much less cost than through the use of most other methods such as higher power transmitters or larger antennas." From "Digital